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NEW YORK MAN SENTENCED FOR PASSPORT FRAUD

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced that MICHAEL LUMLEY, 40, of Kensington Avenue, Buffalo, NY, was sentenced late yesterday to serve six months in federal prison for committing passport fraud. LUMLEY pled guilty in September to one charge of passport fraud in U.S. District Court in Concord. Also, a detainer on LUMLEY was lodged by Special Agents of the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which will be seeking his deportation once he has served his sentence.

LUMLEY, a Jamaican national, admitted to willfully and knowingly making false statements to the State Department in a passport application in order to fraudulently obtain a United States passport. In April, 2002, LUMLEY submitted a passport application in which he claimed that he was born in the United States Virgin Islands. LUMLEY also submitted a counterfeit Virgin Islands birth certificate along with the false application. The case resulted from an extensive investigation by the U.S. Department of State Diplomatic Security Service from the National Passport Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

U. S. Attorney Colantuono highly commended the U. S. Department of State Diplomatic Security Service for what he termed the "exceptionally diligent and efficient" handling of the investigation.

This case resulted from an ongoing initiative known as "Operation Checkmate" which is designed to identify false passport applications that are submitted for adjudication to the National Passport Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The National Passport Center processes and adjudicates approximately two million applications each year, or one quarter of all United States passport applications. Operation Checkmate is a joint initiative of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Hampshire, the U.S. Department of State Diplomatic Security Service, the Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General and the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

LUMLEY was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Steven J. McAuliffe. Assistant U. S. Attorney Alfred Rubega prosecuted this case.